

dearly treasured by all who knew and loved them: Jordanne Murray, Katrina McCorkle, Leanna Thomas, Aaron Smith, Bradley Schultz, Lindsey Stahl, and Tyler Peterson.

On behalf of all people in northeast Wisconsin and beyond, please know that we share your grief. And to all family and friends of those who remain on this saddest of days, we mourn with you.

For some things there can never be a reason why.

I ask for a moment of silence.

A ROBUST ECONOMY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, September marked the 49th consecutive month of job growth in the United States with the creation of 110,000 new jobs. Revised reports show an increase, not a decline, in jobs for August, which makes 8.4 million new jobs created since August 2003. This sets the record for the longest period of uninterrupted job growth in our history. This achievement comes as the stock market has hit a record high and the unemployment rate remains low at 4.7 percent.

The success of our economy is a product of pro-growth policies inspired by the Home Builders Association that respect the needs of American businesses and taxpayers. However, the most important contributor to these positive trends is the entrepreneurial spirit of Americans who are investing in our economy, building successful companies, and trading on the global market. We should support these efforts by keeping taxes low and enforcing fiscal responsibility here in Congress.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th. My deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and staff of Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JO ANN DAVIS OF VIRGINIA

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Representative JO ANN DAVIS with whom I served as she served as chairperson and I as ranking member on our subcommittee in Government Reform.

It was always a pleasure to work with her. And while we didn't always agree on every issue that came before us, we always agreed that we would be civil and that we would work in tandem for the best interests of the people of this country.

So I'm going to miss her. I extend my personal condolences to her family and would just like for her to know that it was indeed a pleasure working with her.

SCHIP EXPANSION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, Congress's SCHIP legislation is seriously flawed. It takes a bipartisan program that was working well and turns it into a huge new entitlement.

It is a bold step towards government expansion into socialized medicine. According to the Congressional Budget Office, 2 million children who are already covered by private insurance will switch to the SCHIP program under the proposed expansion. This is more than one in three of the projected new enrollees.

In plain terms, this means we are providing incentives for people to drop their health insurance in favor of government-funded health care. And many of the people who will be dropping their health insurance will be making as much as \$60,000.

This doesn't make sense. The government has no business luring Americans onto the Federal health care rolls and making them dependent on the government to provide health care.

Call it what you want, but this \$35 billion expansion is not just about getting health care for kids. It is the early stages of a massive socialized health system that slowly erodes individual control in favor of government control of your health care. We don't need to be doing that.

AMERICAN TROOPS IN IRAQ

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I just returned on a codel from Baghdad, among other places, with four other Members, a bipartisan trip. I am proud to report that our troops are doing a marvelous job under the circumstances in which they have been placed.

To ride in a C-130 with American soldiers going into combat, seeing their faces and realizing that they were going into harm's way was very, very emotional; to ride in a Humvee with soldiers who faced an enemy that they didn't know who it was because friends and enemy look alike; and to be in the streets of Baghdad.

I was buoyed by the enthusiasm of our troops but know they are going to need help over the years with veterans benefits. We were in Landstuhl, Germany hospital today with a soldier who lost his leg on Friday. Continuing injuries will cause a continuing commitment from the American people and a continuing commitment to make sure that Iran does not exercise undue influence.

Prime Minister Maliki reasserted his desire to provide defense for his own country with help from America with equipment and not to have Iran interfere. I wasn't as extremely enthusiastic

about what I saw in the country of Iraq, which has been ravaged, or their government, which needs much improvement.

But our troops are beyond reproach and they need our support.

GOOD NEWS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I too today stand to pay tribute to our colleague JO ANN DAVIS and to express my condolences to her family, her friends, and her staff. She will be missed in this body.

I also rise today to have a little bit to say about the economic news that is coming out. We have a Presidential debate on the issue tonight.

The bipartisan Congressional Budget Office has released a reported today; and according to the CBO, the Republican tax cuts going back to 2003, the tax cuts started then have fueled our growing economy and they are responsible for shrinking the Federal deficit, this time by 35 percent. What incredible economic news.

We also find out that Americans paid a record \$2.5 trillion in taxes in 2007 and Federal receipts have climbed since when? Since the 2003 tax reductions were put in place. And it has fueled the largest 4-year revenue increase in U.S. history.

Madam Speaker, it is good news on the economic front. I highlight this good news to my colleagues and encourage them to read the CBO report.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXTENDING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1124) to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

On page 2, after line 11, insert:

SEC. 2. MEANS TESTING.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3(c)(2) of the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 1324; Public Law 106-98) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;